



KC city manager's power of the purse doesn't fly in other cities

BY BILL TURQUE
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Just about any time Phoenix officials want to spend more than \$8,600 in taxpayer dollars, they must go to the City Council for approval.

By that standard, Kansas City Manager Troy Schulte and his department heads enjoy a blank check. Without council authorization, they can solicit bids and sign off on any construction contract up to \$1.3 million, or other expenditures of as much as \$400,000.

That broad authority is under challenge from a group of City Council members, who have introduced an ordinance that would trim his power to sign on the dotted line without their approval.

An examination by The Star found that Phoenix was one of numerous big cities where elected officials can scrutinize spending more closely. Localities with lower thresholds for council review include Long Beach (\$200,000), Sacramento (\$100,000) and Mesa (\$25,000).

Like Phoenix, the nation's sixth largest city by population, all are governed under the council-manager form of government.

SEE CONTRACTS, 8A

Children's Mercy planning nine-story tower

BY ANDY MARSO
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Children's Mercy Hospital is seeking permission to build a research tower that would change the skyline of Hospital Hill.

The nine-story tower would be one of the tallest buildings on the medical campus south of downtown Kansas City.

Children's Mercy spokeswoman Lisa Augustine said the tower would support the Children's Research Institute the hospital established in 2015 to coordinate and expand its research portfolio.

"This is a home for it, really," Augustine said.

Augustine said an official announcement about the project is coming next month and the hospital "looks forward to sharing more details in early 2018."

The tower is proposed to be built above an existing hospital parking garage on the northwest corner of Hospital Hill. The facade would be constructed of blue glazing glass, some of it reflective.

Voters approved a ballot question last month to give up about a half-acre of city park land at East 23rd Street and Locust Street to make way for the project.

Heidi Markle, a spokeswoman for Kansas City Parks and Recreation, said the land is currently a street easement

SEE TOWER, 8A

Trump draws praise, protests after scaling back monuments



Ancestral Pueblo ruins, known as "House on Fire Ruins" for the smoldering color of the sandstone, are among the 100,000 archeological sites within the Bear Ears National Monument that President Donald Trump is scaling back.

BY JOSH DAWSEY AND JULIET EILPERIN
Washington Post

SALT LAKE CITY

President Donald Trump on Monday drastically scaled back two national monuments established in Utah by his Democratic predecessors, the largest reduction of public lands protection in U.S. history.

Trump's move to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments by more than 1.1 million acres and more than 800,000 acres, respectively, immediately sparked an outpouring of praise from conservative lawmakers as well as activists' protests outside the White House and in Utah. The changes plunge the Trump administration into uncharted legal territory, as no president has sought to modify monuments established under the 1906 Antiquities Act in more than half a century.

His decision removes about 85 percent of the designation of Bears Ears and nearly 46 percent of that for Grand Staircase-Escalante, land that potentially could now be leased for energy exploration or opened for specific activities such as motorized vehicle use.

Trump told a rally in Salt Lake City that he came to "reverse federal overreach" and took dramatic action "because some people think that the natural resources of Utah should be controlled by a small handful of very distant bureaucrats located in Washington. And guess what? They're wrong."

The two proclamations are the first in a series of major changes Trump intends to make to numerous monuments, which range from a forested patch of the Pacific Northwest to a stretch of the Atlantic Ocean off New England.

SEE MONUMENTS, 2A

THE DECISION MEANS THE LAND COULD POTENTIALLY BE LEASED FOR ENERGY EXPLORATION

IN DEPTH

COUNTRY CLUB COULD HELP PRAIRIE VILLAGE

A businessman with racquet clubs in North Carolina is hoping to bring his success to Prairie Village. **12A**



BUSINESS

COUNCIL EYES HOTEL FINANCES

Three Kansas City Council members are pressing for additional financial details about the planned downtown convention hotel. **5A**



NATION

JUSTICES ALLOW TRAVEL BAN

The Supreme Court granted President Trump's request to enforce his revised travel ban on Monday. **2A**